

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 /078 W
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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7635

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 348

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SP EI

SUBJ: VISIT OF SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA

1. THE IRISH LAID OUT THE RED CARPET FOR SPANISH FOREIGN
MINISTER AREILZA, WHO WAS ACCORDED AN "OFFICIAL" VISIT WITH
FULL HONORS AND CEREMONIES. HE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER
COSGRAVE, IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD, OTHER GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS, OPPOSITION LEADERS, AND VISITED IRELAND'S CEREMONIAL
HEAD OF STATE, PRESIDENT O DALAIGH. COVERAGE FROM THE GOVERNMENT
TV/RADIO WAS HEAVY, THOUGH NEWSPAPER COVERAGE WAS MINIMAL. IN-
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SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL, AREILZA DID NOT BREAK ANY NEW GROUND HERE,
ALTHOUGH BOTH HE AND HIS HOSTS NOTED THE SPECIAL "HISTORIC AND

SENTIMENTAL" LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. POLITICAL DIRECTOR NOEL DORR GAVE US AN ACCOUNT OF THE VISIT SHORTLY AFTER AREILZA'S DEPARTURE. HE SAID THAT AREILZA STRESSED OVER AND OVER THAT HE WAS NOT ASKING FOR ANYTHING, THAT IT WAS SIMPLY A GOOD WILL VISIT DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE A "FAVORABLE CLIMATE" FOR SPAIN AND ITS EVENTUAL ACCESSION TO BOTH THE EC AND NATO (HE DID REMEMBER THAT IRELAND IS NOT A MEMBER OF NATO). ACCORDING TO DORR, AREILZA ESTIMATED THAT SPAIN WOULD BE READY TO MAKE A FORMAL APPLICATION FOR FULL EC STATUS IN ABOUT TWO YEARS, AND HE EXPECTED THAT AFTER THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE ABOUT 2-3 YEARS. AS IN OTHER CAPITALS, HE REITERATED THAT SPAIN WAS NOT INTERESTED IN RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE EC, BUT WOULD ATTEMPT TO UPDATE ITS 1970 AGREEMENT. THE IRISH TOLD HIM THAT SUCH MATTERS WILL BE UP TO THE COMMISSION. ON EVENTUAL ACCESSION AND SPANISH POLITICAL EVOLUTION, FITZGERALD TOLD AREILZA THAT SPAIN WOULD HAVE "SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING" FROM IRELAND. FITZGERALD THEN REITERATED HIS EARLIER STATEMENT ON GREEK ADMISSION THAT ENLARGEMENT OF THE EC WOULD REQUIRE MUCH THOUGH ON IMPROVEMENT OF PROCESSES FOR CONSULTATION IF THE ORGANIZATION IS NOT GOING TO BE TOO UNWIELDY FOR PRACTICAL ACTION - ALSO, WITH ENLARGED MEMBERSHIP, THE QUESTION OF AUGMENTATION OF RESOURCES WOULD BE CRUCIAL.

3. DORR SAID THAT AREILZA SPENT SOME HOURS TALKING TO FITZGERALD IN A THEORETICAL VEIN ABOUT THE IRISH EXPERIENCE IN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, HANDLING OF DISSENT, ETC. AREILZA AND COMPANY WERE QUITE IMPRESSED WITH THE BACKSLAPPING, FIRST-NAME BONHOMMIE BETWEEN FITZGERALD AND OPPOSITION SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER MICHAEL O'KENNEDY. ON THE WHOLE, THE IRISH FOUND AREILZA TO BE A SOPHISTICATED, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND CHARMING DIPLOMAT ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT AUSTERE BY IRISH STANDARDS. CURLEY

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